



KINGSBURY HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 15 - May 2016

Message from the Co-Headteachers



Dear parents, carers and members of the community,

As you can see on this page, we recently held our final assembly for our Year 11 students before they commenced their programme of final revision and examinations. It rained for the first time in years on this day but that didn't dampen the air of celebration. The assembly was preceded by the traditional shirt signing ceremony and concluded with students reading letters written to them by parents and staff, expressing their pride in their achievements and their best wishes for the exams to come. For most it's not goodbye of course, returning as they will for the sixth form, but it's a rite of passage for sure, and we're delighted that as usual the year group acquitted themselves with honour and fully justified our faith in our students, confident that we can enable these joyous occasions to take place without fear of over-reaction. Not all schools seem to have that degree of confidence in their students.

All of this means, of course, that year 10 are now less than one year from their GCSEs! Year 9 are over half way through their early GCSEs and year 8 are about to make the choices they get to make for year 9 – as well as aiming for the best possible level of graduation.

Finally, don't forget that the dates for the end of the summer term have been adjusted: students now finish on Friday 15th July, with staff continuing until the following Wednesday. We'll be spending our time on those staff only days doing some forward thinking and planning for the new GCSE and A level courses which are in the process of being introduced nationally.

These courses are referred to as "linear" because they consist of one straight line of teaching followed by exams – as opposed to "modular" which break the course up into small chunks and have exams every few months. Personally, we like the idea of returning to linear courses: they prevent the constant preoccupation with coursework and tests which has been so much the case up until now. They do, however, require students to retain the two years' knowledge for a final examination rather than jettisoning it en route as each module is taken. We look forward to preparing our students for success in this more traditional form of examination.

Rachel Kitley and Jeremy Waxman

Year 11 Final Assembly 2016



On Wednesday 18th May, Year 11 students attended a final assembly before their GCSE examinations commenced.

The occasion was filled with a mixture of emotions as the students were taken through their five years at Kingsbury High School. Students settled into the hall with the traditional shirt signing; they heard from some staff that have had an impact on their time at Kingsbury High; Students took to the floor to thank their form tutors; and then after a musical interlude, they were filled with emotion when they were handed letters wishing them luck for their exams.

Stage Leader, Sandip Das, said "At Kingsbury we celebrate this important moment in their lives, confident that they are ready and able to take the next step. I look forward to their future with a great sense of optimism, and wish Year 11 good health, happiness and every success."



Beyond the Baseline Mini Tennis Festival



Kingsbury High School hosted a mini tennis festival for local primary school students as part of the Beyond the Baseline programme.

Beyond the Baseline is an initiative brought to schools by The Tennis Foundation and Youth Sports Trust. The programme uses tennis and inspirational tennis mentors to nurture students' aspirations and put them on the path to achieving them.

This is the second year that Kingsbury High School has been involved in the programme. This year saw, Tennis Mentor, Jessica Weeks pay three visits to the school to inspire and coach Year 9 students.

By the end of the three sessions the students, along with last year's mentees, were ready to lead the tennis festival which took place on Friday 6th of May.

Kingsbury High's School Sports Co-ordinator, Ashley Dunne-Watts said "It was refreshing to see Year 10 and Year 9 Kingsbury High School students work together to create a successful mini tennis festival. The smooth running of the competition would not have been possible if it wasn't for the Beyond the Baseline Programme.

"We would like to thank the staff and Year 3 & 4 students of the primary schools for attending the event."

The following schools were in attendance: Byron Court Primary School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St. Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School, Sudbury Primary School, Preston Park Primary School and Uxendon Manor Primary School.

Desperate Glory



On Monday 21st March The Globe Players visited Kingsbury High School with their First World War production of Desperate Glory.

This year is one hundred years since the Battle of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme. Desperate Glory marks this centenary with a lively and moving show which combines the prose and poems of the writers who fought in the First World War with many of the music hall songs of the time, and brings to life the experience of some of the men and women whose lives were devastated by the first industrialised war. The patriotism, disillusionment, satire and sheer horror expressed in the writings of the soldier-poets are set against a background of the changing attitudes of those at home.

The play was performed to some 300 Year 8 students throughout the day. Associate Head of the English Faculty, Ms Bali, said "Desperate Glory was an extremely moving, richly entertaining, and, above all, thought-provoking show about World War One. It was an excellent introduction to the Year 8 unit: War Poetry."



Proposed New Multi-Sport Facility



Plan of proposed new facilities

With regards to proposals for new state of the art multi-sport facilities at Kingsbury High School, we would like to say a huge thank you for the fantastic response and messages of support you have submitted on the council website so far.

If you haven't managed to submit your comments yet, you still have a few days left to do so. Every message of support is essential in helping to make these proposals a reality.

We are extremely excited at the prospect of being able to develop sport and physical education even further at Kingsbury High School and here's what these facilities will mean for your children:

- currently school pitches are often waterlogged and unusable between November and March, the proposed new artificial turf pitches would allow your children to use school pitches all year round, regardless of the weather
- the new pitches would allow a greater variety of activities to be played and an increased volume of sporting activities being offered by the school for your children. This gives the potential for more teams, more clubs and more after school activities, with associated health benefits for our students.
- the refurbishment of existing sports hall and changing facilities will provide a much improved sports environment for your children

Your backing will be vital in order to help us achieve permission for these fantastic new facilities.

Please show your support in the following way as soon as possible:

Visit <https://www.brent.gov.uk/services-for-residents/planning-and-building-control/planning-and-building-control-searches/>, click on Search planning applications now and enter the application reference number 16/0994 (which is unique to this application). There is a tab labelled View / Make Comments where, after a simple registration process, you will be able to leave a comment.

Proposed New Multi-Sport Facility Continued

Or if you prefer, you can use the following alternative methods below:

Email planandbuild@brent.gov.uk but please make sure to use the reference number 16/0994 and include your full name and postal address.

Write a letter to the case officer, Victoria McDonagh, at Brent Council, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ, making sure to quote the reference number 16/0994 and include your full name and postal address.

Every supportive comment, email and letter is crucial, and some of the points that you may want to consider referring to include:

- The proposed site is often waterlogged and practically unusable between November and March each year, preventing delivery of the desired range and quality of teaching;
- The need for new sports facilities to enhance the existing sports curriculum and improve the extra-curricular offer for pupils;
- We have aspired for many years to construct artificial turf pitches for year-round use but have been unable to independently finance the investment;
- Pupils have to travel off-site for lessons, reducing the teaching time available and incurring additional costs for the school;
- There would be significant knock-on benefits for other schools in the local area through the Kingsbury High School School Sports Partnership.

We thank you very much for your support.

If you have any queries about the scheme and would like to talk to a member of the development team, please call 0800 080 3163 or email c.bushe@gka.co.uk.

Calling All Former Students!

Kingsbury High School is working with the education charity Future First to connect with our former students and build an Alumni Network.

Whether you left 5 years ago or 50 years ago, we want to know what you've done since leaving our doors and bring you back as a relatable and inspirational role model for our current students. You can help support students in a variety of ways, from sharing your story in an assembly, to mentoring students or even offering work experience.

If you are a former student, please sign up at <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/kingsbury> to get in touch and get involved.

Many of you will already be on our network, but you can still help us by sharing the link with your old school friends.

Bonita Norris Visits Kingsbury High School



Bonita Norris, the youngest person in the world to have reached the summit of Everest and the North Pole, visited Kingsbury High School on Monday 18th April to speak in front of 100 girls as part of the, Play for Change, Slam Dunk Programme.

Play for Change is a charity aiming to improve the lives of children through the power of sport. Students from schools in Wandsworth and Brent came together at Kingsbury High to listen to Bonita's exceptional talk and to share a game of basketball.

The Slam Dunk programme is delivered in communities across London using basketball as a hook to deliver life skills and inspirational workshops.

Bonita, standing in front of the young girls, said "we should all aim ridiculously high in life". Bonita tells her story of coming from a small town with few opportunities, and 2 years after attending a lecture about Mount Everest she summited the world's highest mountain at the age of 22, making her the youngest person to do so.

"When I push myself the most and I am outside of my comfort zone, that's when the most amazing things happen", said Bonita, who currently trains 4 hours a day for her next trip up K2 which is the second highest mountain in the world although widely perceived to be a harder and more dangerous climb.

Kingsbury High School student, Salma Abdi, was inspired by the talk and said "Bonita made me think I could climb Mount Everest too by taking one step at a time. She taught me that even if you have doubt in your mind, you can still do something great."

Bonita Norris says "Being an Ambassador for Play for Change is such a huge honour. Sport changed my life and I'd love for that to be universal for anyone to be able to work their way out of any hardships. With Play for Change I know I can make a difference and I would love to see young girls having their confidence and life skills built through doing sport and realising what it can do for them."

Debating & Public Speaking at Kingsbury High



As the Upper School Debating Society brings its season to a close, and the Lower School Debating Society hosts the English Speaking Union's London Debate Challenge this term, it is a pleasure to reflect on the year's highlights (so far).

The crowning achievement was the success of Iman Mohamed (Year 13) and Sara Dehviri (Year 11) in reaching the National Finals of the Oxford Schools' Debating Competition at the prestigious Oxford Union. Kingsbury High was one of a very small number of state schools represented and the only one from the Brent & Harrow area.

The girls represented the school with distinction, having beaten first-class opposition in the regional round at Woodside High School to get to the national finals. Sara is hoping to repeat this success during her years in the Sixth Form.

In addition to this achievement, the Sixth Form fielded five delegations at the annual City of London School Model United Nations to compete against some well-known grammar and independent schools. All performed brilliantly on the day but special congratulations are reserved for the efforts of Hadi Hijazi and Mahima Vekaria, both Year 12, for their excellent contributions to committees, and to Dhruv Sharan (Year 12) and Iman Mohamed (Year 13) for attaining 'Highly Commended Delegate' Awards.

In public speaking, the school hosted the Jack Petchey Speaking Competition and our speakers, both in Year 10, were inspirational to watch: well done to Vinitha Vasantharajah, who set the standard for the evening with a fantastic opening speech, and to Hassan Naima, a prize-winner on the night, for his passionate oratory.

The school provides for debating and public speaking opportunities across the age range, from Year 7 through to Year 13, which includes Lower School and Upper School clubs, externally provided debating workshops (this year run by Debate Mate, Jack Petchey Speakout Challenge and the English Speaking Union), internal mentoring, and competitions. We have fielded teams this year in the Oxford Union, Cambridge Union and English Speaking Union Mace competitions. In the latter, Xane Mills, in Year 7, and Nouh El-Ouaz, in Year 8, deserve particular praise for thoughtful points made in the floor debate at Haberdashers' Aske's School for Boys in Elstree.

Students perform at 343 Stag Lane



On Friday 13th May Kingsbury High School students performed in front of members of the local community at the Opening Ceremony of the Willow Tree Doctors Surgery's new site: 343 Stag Lane.

The students performed acoustically and were received warmly by visitors to the centre. Their pieces were followed by performances from staff and students at The Village School.

Dr. Meeta Dodhia, MD, CCFP, MRCGP said "We would like to thank the Kingsbury High School students for starting the opening ceremony of our new surgery. They performed marvellously and some members of the audience really got involved by clapping and swaying to the rhythm.



The Panathlon Challenge



Friday the 29th April saw The Panathlon Challenge come together with Kingsbury High School at Burnt Oak Leisure Centre. The Panathlon Challenge is a national charity that provides sporting opportunities for disabled young people through a number of sporting competitions and events.

Kingsbury High School students had been trained on how to lead the activities that make up the event, during the February half term and were ready to support the wonderful occasion.

Students from West London primary schools attended and competed in games such as Polybat, Boccia and Table Cricket. The gold medal winners were Millbank Academy making them West London Champions.

Chris James, Primary Programme Manager, at Panathlon said "The students from Kingsbury High were excellent role models during the event and the way they interacted with both students and teachers from competing schools was really great to see. Many of them had not worked with students with disabilities before and it was really impressive how they immersed themselves in to the day, got stuck in and made it a safe, fun and enjoyable environment for all of the students taking part. I'd love to use all of these leaders again in the future!"



Higher Project Qualification



On Wednesday 4th May Tylers and Croft Hall hosted a momentous evening – the very first Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) Evening of Achievement. It was here that over 100, Year 9, students in the Advance track presented a culmination of a year's work and it was a truly brilliant occasion.

The HPQ, usually aimed for KS4 and KS5 students, requires students to write a 2,000 word essay on a topic of their choice. With this, students are expected to conduct their own research, formulate their own critical arguments and then present their findings to an audience. In this instance, the audience consisted of 12 Kingsbury staff members including Mr Waxman, Mr Watkins, Mr Gibson, Ms Vishnuram, Ms Williams, Mr Tomlinson, Mr Mitchell, Mr Gannon, Mr Wilson, Ms Hollingworth and led by the HPQ Coordinator Mr Patrick Thompson and HPQ Supervisor Ms Ruparella. Alongside this many sets of parents came along to share in the success of their children.

With topics ranging from gender inequality in sport; transgenderism in the 21st century; the impact of terrorism on religious groups; and the ethics behind animal testing, Kingsbury students shone and deserve to be hugely proud of their work. Many teachers who attended the evening described the work as "inspirational".

Mr Thompson said "It is quite special to see Year 9 pupils engaging in such a mature and thoughtful way with academic writing and research. I am immensely proud of the students here and hope that the work they have put in this year sets them off in good stead for a successful academic career. With this said, the evening has been made possible by a genuine sense of community at Kingsbury with many teachers giving up their free time to support our students."

Young Enterprise Success



NEOS were able to show off their game to the Mayor of Brent, Councillor Lesley Jones

Kingsbury High School's Young Enterprise team, NEOS, played their way to success, with their educational board game, Roundabout, at the Brent & Harrow area final on Tuesday 26th April 2016.

NEOS were awarded with the titles 'Best Company in Brent', 'Most Innovative Product' and 'Best trade Stand at the event held at Brent Civic Centre.

The team were also commended on their company report; their attractive and informative trade stand; and their ability to work well as a team throughout the competition.

Associate Head of Faculty for Technology & Art, Manisha Sanghani, said "The Young Enterprise students have worked incredibly hard over the last few months to design and produce their game, and will now go on to represent the school and borough at the West London finals. Thank you to all those members of staff who have supported the team along their way."

Pranisha Bhudia, Managing Director at NEOS, said "Hearing NEOS being called out as winners at the area final and seeing us all go up on stage made me realise how far we have come as a team and I hope we continue to succeed."

Thanks to Bruce Viveash for the photography.



Ask the Apprentice



As part of National Apprenticeship Week, Harrow College and Capgemini worked together to create a special 'Ask the Apprentice' event on the afternoon of Thursday 10th March 2016.

Associate Head of Faculty for Technology & Art, Ms Sanghani, accompanied three Sixth Form student's to the event where former Kingsbury High School student, Radhika Parmar, joined a panel of other Apprentices to talk about her experience.

Radhika joined Capgemini last year on the degree apprenticeship and is now living in Sale and working towards her BSc in Computer Programming degree. She said

"The event was a great way to promote the types of apprenticeships around, and the various companies who provide them. I'm pleased I chose an apprenticeship instead of university, and I would really recommend it because the opportunity is incredible. It was great to see people from my school, who introduced Capgemini to me".

The event was open to young people, parents/guardians, employers and careers advisors and it offered an opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships.

In addition to a strong Capgemini presence, other employers and apprentices who attended included representatives from British Gas, Lloyds Banking Group, Travis Perkins, Rolls-Royce, Nationwide Building Society, Barclays Bank and the Civil Service.

The event offered plenty of opportunities for networking for the employers and attendees.

Michelle Perkins Capgemini Schools Outreach Director said "With two former students attending we were totally delighted to see students and staff from Kingsbury High at the event. I hope that some more Kingsbury High students will join us as Apprentices this year! Capgemini really likes working with Kingsbury High. Ms Sanghani in particular is a wonderful supporter of the school's students, encouraging them to make the best choices about their futures."

London Debate Challenge - Brent Borough heat



On Thursday 19th May, Kingsbury High School hosted the Brent Borough heat of the London Debate Challenge.

It was an exciting day for our KS3 debating teams, who took part in an English Speaking Union debating workshop in the morning, followed by competitive debating rounds against two other Brent schools, Ark Academy Wembley and Ark Elvin Academy, in the afternoon.

Motions dealt with topical ideas from introducing a sugar tax to banning violent combat sports. Kingsbury's team, which included students from Year 7 and 8, Kashvi, Bashra, Nouh and Jawad, spoke confidently and convincingly on these topics and held their own against the opposing teams. They were well supported by our swing team, Bejan, Keenal, Mahdi and Humza, who all made contributions in our floor debates.

Congratulations to the champions of the day, Ark Academy: strong speakers and tough competition!

Congratulations, too, to all who participated. All of the participants showed great confidence – one of the most significant benefits of debating, according to the ESU's James Hardy, who ran the morning workshop and judged the competition. He commented: "Learning debating at school is a great way to get students to think about and care about big issues, to learn how to develop arguments and to learn how to listen to others point of view. The thing I think is most useful, though, is the confidence it inspires. Debating gives them such a clear opportunity, and the growth in confidence from speech to speech is amazing.

"At the ESU, we're committed to working to empower students to know that their opinion is hugely important, and to give them the skills to express it clearly and persuasively."

Brent Schools Chess League



A number of Kingsbury High's Sixth Form students competed in the Brent Schools Chess League held at Barham Primary School in March.

In the lead up to the competition, the students regularly attended Kingsbury High School's own Chess Club. Attending these sessions paid off for Gabriel Orgidan as his strategic playing at the Brent Schools Chess League earned him first place in a three-way-tie between students from Wembley High and Capital City Academy.

BBC News at Kingsbury High School



Kingsbury High School students were featured in the BBC London News at the end of April for the launch of a new game called B20 Cricket with Middlesex Cricket Board.

B20 Cricket is a fast and fun way to play Cricket with each innings lasting just 20 balls, which means it's great for school lunchtimes and evening leagues, and in longer sessions lots of games can be played to make sure everyone gets involved.

It was an exciting day of filming and our students represented the school extremely well.

Alumni Feature - Anika Mehagra



"When I was younger, I was interested in so many things and I couldn't make up my mind about what I wanted to be when I grew up. When it came to choosing my GCSE's and A-Levels, I was told that they will affect how

my life will pan out. I was very confused as to what to choose and I ended up going for the subjects I enjoyed. My A level choices were very unusual, Art, Computing and Biology. I worked hard during my time at Kingsbury High with the help of my teachers - some even helped us on weekends.

"My computing teacher for AS, Ms Sanghani, pushed me to get involved in a range of Computing activities such as working with NAO robots from Warwick University and participating in an App competition. The class and I ended up participating in the competition and won! The prize was a chance to visit one of the Capgemini offices for a day.

"At the Capgemini offices in Holborn, we were told about their apprenticeship and degree programme and how it could benefit us. I was so interested that I went home and applied that day. I went through the tough process and successfully got a place in the apprenticeship programme.

"The apprenticeship is very structured. I began with training in Telford for 12 weeks, getting hands on training with some of the things that we would need for the job. After the in-depth training course,

Alumni Feature Continued - Anika Mehagra

I began my daily job. The coursework for the apprenticeship will be marked by an assessor who, at the end of the two year program, will award me with National Level 3 Diplomas in subjects I complete coursework in. I can then choose to join the degree programme and get a chance to study for a computing or business degree that is funded by Capgemini.

"Since starting in September 2014, I have had the chance to speak to schools about the apprenticeship program I am on. I have been interviewed for local newspapers and with CEO's of other major companies about how I came across this program and why I chose this over going to university. I enjoy inspiring young people, especially those who can't see themselves going to university.

"It has been a very pleasant experience so far and my family was very supportive of my decision. They were shocked when they realised what stage I could be at, after these 5 years at Capgemini, in comparison to someone having gone to university and acquiring a degree in a similar subject. It has been almost two years since I joined Capgemini and in September 2016 I will be embarking on their degree programme with Aston University.

"Without the push I got in Kingsbury High School, I would never have known about the range of things I can do with an education in Computing. Without this push, I would have ended up pursuing a career in Dentistry (which wasn't for me). Without this push, I wouldn't have even thought about the idea of doing an apprenticeship."